

## 11

said long, hollow tube is of thick-walled metal with a range of malleability accommodating varied-sized endotracheal tubes as catheters for different-sized patients, said thick walls of said long, hollow metal tube resisting buckling and kinking when bent;

said open distal tip having a diameter on the same order as said thick walls of said long, hollow metal tube; whereby

said long hollow metal tube providing means for resisting deformation during intubation yet malleably deforms during manual manipulation prior to and during intubation.

10. The soft, inflatable introducer adapted to be inserted into a hollow, cylindrical endotracheal catheter of claim 9, further comprising:

said thick-walled and malleable metal being aluminum.

11. The soft, inflatable introducer adapted to be inserted into a hollow, cylindrical endotracheal catheter of claim 9, wherein

said thick-walled and malleable metal tube has an inert, tightly fitting and open-ended cover that prevents oxidation or other reactions of said malleable metal tube.

12. The introducer in accordance with claim 11 wherein said thick-walled and malleable metal tube is made of dead-soft 3003 aluminum tubing having an inner diameter of approximately nineteen thousandths inch (0.019") and an outer diameter of approximately forty-seven thousandths inch (0.047").

13. The introducer in accordance with claim 11 wherein said thick-walled and malleable metal tube is made of dead-soft 3003 aluminum tubing having an inner diameter of approximately seventy-five thousandths inch (0.075") and an outer diameter of approximately one hundred twenty-five thousandths inch (0.125").

14. The introducer in accordance with claim 11 wherein said thick-walled and malleable metal tube is made of dead soft C12200 copper having an inner diameter of approximately twenty-eight thousandths inch (0.028") and an outer diameter of approximately seventy-one thousandths inch (0.071").

15. The introducer in accordance with claim 11 wherein said thick-walled and malleable metal tube is made of dead soft C12200 copper having an inner diameter of approximately thirty-one thousandths inch (0.031") and an outer diameter of approximately eighty-one thousandths inch (0.081").

16. An inflatable introducer for insertion into a catheter for allowing easier intubation of the catheter into a patient's body, comprising:

an elongated, malleable metal tube having open proximal and distal ends and being at least long enough for intubation purposes, said malleable metal tube being susceptible to re-shaping by a human hand and tending to maintain a selected attained shape before and after insertion into said catheter and during intubation, said malleable metal tube having a relatively thick wall to thereby decrease the amount of fluid necessary to inflate said inflatable sheath and to prevent buckling during use, said malleable metal tube extending a distance at least equal to the length of said catheter;

## 12

a cylindrical, elongated, inflatable sheath surrounding and enclosing a distal end portion and said open distal end of said malleable metal tube;

fluid flow control means for controllably controlling the flow of fluid to and from said inflatable sheath, said fluid flow control means being coupled in fluidtight engagement to said open proximal end of said malleable metal tube; and

adapter means for receiving a source of pressurized fluid for inflating said inflatable sheath, said adapter means being coupled in fluidtight engagement with said fluid flow control means;

said open distal end having a diameter on the same order as said relatively thick wall of said malleable metal tube; whereby

said malleable metal tube providing means for resisting deformation during intubation yet malleably deforms during manual manipulation prior to and during intubation.

17. An inflatable introducer for insertion into a catheter for allowing easier intubation of the catheter into a patient's body, comprising:

an elongated, malleable metal tube having open proximal and distal ends and being at least long enough for intubation purposes, said malleable metal tube being susceptible to re-shaping by a human hand and tending to maintain a selected and attained shape before and after insertion into said catheter and during intubation, said malleable metal tube having an inert, tightly fitting and open-ended cover preventing oxidation or other reactions of said malleable metal tube;

a cylindrical, elongated, inflatable sheath surrounding and enclosing a distal end portion of said open distal end of said malleable metal tube, said malleable metal tube extending a first distance from said cylindrical, elongated, inflatable sheath approximately the same as a second distance into said cylindrical, elongated, inflatable sheath;

fluid flow control means for controllably controlling the flow of fluid to and from said inflatable sheath, said fluid flow control means being coupled in fluidtight engagement to said open proximal end of said malleable metal tube; and

adapter means for receiving a source of pressurized fluid for inflating said inflatable sheath, said adapter means being coupled in fluidtight engagement with said fluid flow control means;

said open distal end having a diameter on the same order as a wall thickness of said malleable metal tube; whereby

said malleable metal tube providing means for resisting deformation during intubation yet malleably deforms during manual manipulation prior to and during intubation.

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